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Copy 6 of 11

12 September 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: OXCART Phaseout Planning (SCOPE COTTON)  
Actions to Date

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. The retrieval of an OXCART mission capability extending beyond 30 November 1967 is becoming problematic as the support posture becomes progressively degraded. A decision by 1 October 1967 is required if an extension of the operational life of this program is contemplated.

3. Examples of actions pending:

a. SCOPE COTTON planning notes that procurement of OXCART spares and hardware and repair of assets will not be performed if production lead-times and delivery dates extend beyond 31 October 1967. This proviso remains in effect. A related factor concerns the "ninety-day support package" concept for support of five stored articles. In the event inventories prior to storage indicate certain line item quantities will not attain the ninety-day objective, it is not intended that new procurement be initiated for these items. This applies to all aircraft and systems spare parts. Without the ability to acquire additional spares or to repair aircraft and systems components, the OXCART program is entirely dependent on "living off-the-shelf" with a consequent serious attrition and degradation of required support items. Examples

NRO review(s) completed.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and

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of this are:

- (1) Engines; none in repair cycle after 18 June 1967.
- (2) Inverters
- (3) Spike Actuators/Indicators
- (4) Door Actuators/Indicators
- (5) INS Computers
- (6) INS Gyro Platforms
- (7) SAS Components
- (8) Temperature Control Amplifiers
- (9) Camera Systems; none in current contractor repair facility.
- (10) Film Stock; all orders completed based on 20 Nov 67 close-out date.

b. Storage of the OXCART fleet will begin when Article 122 is flown to Palmdale on 16 September 1967. Article 122 will be turned over to the National Reconnaissance Office storage custodian, who has been assigned responsibilities for the receipt of OXCART aircraft and associated equipment.

c. A joint SAC/Agency team is enroute to Kadena Air Base to conduct a survey of OXCART facilities and equipment to develop the final plan for the SAC deployment and Agency transfer of assets. The transition date will be immediately subsequent to the conclusion of the team's survey. A SAC team composed of five specialists will remain at Kadena to begin implementing the transition phase.

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d. Operation [redacted] redeployment of BLACK SHIELD task force, has been formulated and will be placed in effect with the first article alerted to redeploy approximately 8 November 1967. The actual departure of the first article from Kadena is scheduled on 14 November with the second and third aircraft leaving 16 and 18 November respectively.

e. No personnel actions have been initiated to replace military, Agency or contractor personnel scheduled to depart as their portions of the program terminate. Contractor personnel have been notified that a close-out date is imminent. Therefore, each vendor is now in process of an orderly phaseout of experienced personnel. These extremely talented people are being absorbed through industry and shortly will no longer be available to the Office of Special Activities. Additionally, a list of military personnel scheduled for movement will be forwarded to the Air Force 1 October for transfer action.

4. Under the present National Reconnaissance Office guidelines, the phasedown of the OXCART program continues to be implemented toward the ultimate goal of complete deactivation.

(Signed) Paul N. Bacalis

for Carl E. Duckett  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

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D/M/OSA [REDACTED] (12 September 1967)

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[REDACTED]